THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) Till 15th October, 1988, 23 cases of AIDS have been reported. The number of AIDS cases are few to comment on any trend of increase over a few months.

(b) Four AIDS cases have been reported during the last 6 months.

(c) There is at the moment, no evidence that there is an increase in cases of AIDS in India. Of the 23 cases reported, 7 were foreigners; 12 Indians appeared to have acquired the infection abroad; only four cases appear to have acquired the infection in India.

(d) The following measures are being taken by Government to prevent AIDS in the country:—

1. A cell has been established in the Directorate General of Health Services to coordinate AIDS Control activity in the country

2. 40 Surveillance Centres have been established in the country to screen high risk groups.

3. All these centres have been provided with diagnostic reagents and equipment package have also been provided to most of them.

4. Restrictions have been imposed on import of blood and blood products without AIDS clearance certificate.

5. All the State Health authorities' hospitals STD clinics have been alerted to be vigilant.

6. All the blood banks have been instructed to screen the professional blood doners

7 All the State Health Authorities have been advised to ensure strict sterilisation practice in hospitals & clinics and to use pre-sterilised disposable syringes and needles as far as possible.

8. Guidelines have been sent to all the State Health Authorities for Health care personnel.

9. All the mass media channels have been involved in educating the people on AIDS. its nature, transmission and prevention.

10. Foreigners:—

I. New foreign students being admitted in any of the Indian Institutions are required to undergo AIDS test. Any body found positive is repatriated to his country.

II. It has been decided to screen for AIDS the foreigners intending to stay for more than one year in India. Members of the diplomatic missions and foreign journalists accredited to the PIB are exempted from the test at this stage. Anybody found positive is to be repatriated to his country.

Deaths due to Dengue Fever in Capital

523. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that scores of people have died in the capital in recent weeks due to mysterious dengue fever;

(b) whether the Doctors attending to the dengue fever patients in various Hospitals in the capital are not providing proper treatment etc;

(c) if so, the number of persons died in various Hospitals due to dengue fever during the last six months and

(d) the responsibility fixed in such cases by Government?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) to (d) As per information received, during September-October, 1988, 65 cases with 15 deaths due to Dengue Fever have been reported from various hospitals in Delhi.

There is no specific treatment for dengue infection nor any vaccine developed yet for prophylactic immunization and the cases are treated with symptomatic

and by supportive treatment. However casas showing haemorrhagic manifestation are treated with intravenous fluid and plasma and blood transfusion indicated in cases of severe bleeding.

There is no report indicating doctors not giving proper treatment to the dengue patients admitted in the hospitals.

Exchanging of New-born Babies in Hospitals

524. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the cases of new-born baby exchange in the Hospitals in the capital are increasing;

(b) whether it is a fact that during the month of October, 1988, a case of exchange of new born baby has come to light from the Safdarjang Hospital, New Delhi;

(c) whether Government propose to fix responsibility in such cases; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take against those involved in such exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) to (d) The enquiry regarding the case of exchange of baby in Safdarjang Hospital in October, 1988 is being conducted by the Additional Director General, Dr. A. K. Mukherjee, the report is still awaited.

Newsitem captioned "Pollution in Space Hampers Vision"

525. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in 'The Indian Express' dated the 17th October, 1988 under the caption "Pollution in space hampers vision";

(b) if so, whether according to the International Astronomical Union, the Astronomers had been facing this form of pollution for the last few years; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government in this regard and further steps proposed to be contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been reported that occasionally, due to radio interference, space debris and in some cases even the outdoor lighting the ground-based and even space-based observations of the astronomy scientists tend to get distorted. This finding was also presented in a paper during the International Astronautical Federation Congress held in Bangalore during October 8—15, 1988.

(c) For the purpose of radio astronomy, specific frequency bands are reserved. It is also ensured that these frequencies are not used for any other purpose. There has been no addition to the problem of space debris due to Indian Space Programme.

Vacancies of Judges in Supreme Court/ High Courts

526. SHRI D. B CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that several posts of judges are lying vacant in the Supreme Court and High Courts;

(b) if so, the details of posts of judges lying vacant and since when;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government is lethargic in appointing judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts; and